

MAY 15, 2012 – BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a budget workshop on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., at the Walton County Courthouse in DeFuniak Springs.

The following Board members were in present: Commissioner Scott Brannon, Chairman; Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, Vice-Chair; Commissioner Larry Jones; Commissioner Sara Comander; and Commissioner Cecilia Jones. Mr. Greg Kisela, County Administrator; Mr. Gerry Demers, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Toni Craig, County Attorney; and Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, were also present.

Commissioner L. Jones led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Brannon called the meeting to order to discuss budget overviews and capital projects/elements for FY 2012-2013.

Mr. Greg Kisela, County Administrator, discussed information provided regarding the FY 2011-2012 budget process, expectations, possibilities, and decisions to make for FY 2012-2013.

Mr. Kisela presented a conservative list of potential savings for the 2012-2013 budget year considerations for discussion including: Landfill timber harvesting, utility usage, Library internet services, surplus electronics and furniture auction, private dumpster use, Landfill recycling, delayed FTE replacements and unfilled vacancies, discretionary funded organization donations, the new phone system, excess health insurance premium returns, a new RFP for health insurance, the Animal Shelter cadaver contract, and Armory utility savings. The total anticipated new revenue or savings is approximately \$1,955,750.

Commissioner Comander, C. Jones, and Brannon briefly discussed concerns with a fee for Library internet services for residents and non-residents.

Mr. Kisela presented information on potential capital projects element initiatives that may need to be considered and their funding sources, which include: a Landfill building (transfer station), beach parking, courthouse parking, stucco for the administration building, fire station renovations, and a road for the Mossy Head Industrial Park.

Commissioner Comander expressed the need to focus on long term goals for the future. The Hwy 331 corridor will greatly enhance business and citizen growth in the county.

Chairman Brannon agreed and discussed length of projects which were projected as a short time frame but has lasted much longer. Past projects need to be incorporated, such as the Timpoochee Trail and the Hwy 30A issues.

Commissioner Comander expressed the need to determine the overall use of the Landfill before considering a building for the transfer station. She questioned if more timber will be planted if it is harvested. Commissioner Pridgen explained the first year thinning and agreed with the need to focus on the future. Mr. Gerry Demers, Assistant County Administrator, clarified that there is a heavily planted portion that would be cleared and replanted, but the majority would be thinned.

Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, questioned how much it will cost the county when they take on the state's tab on Medicaid. Mr. Kisela explained that they have had meetings with the state and will continue to do so, and the worst case could be as much as \$300,000 but realistically it would be in the \$100,000 range.

Commissioner Comander questioned how much funds are in reserves. Mr. Bill Imfeld, Finance Director, stated that there is approximately \$11 million in the general fund reserves. If the county maintains between \$9-13 million in unrestricted general fund reserves, they will qualify for the best rates possible. Commissioner Comander discussed the need to keep no less than \$10 million in reserves in case of disasters.

Chairman Brannon questioned the Tourist Development Council expectation of a 20% increase in their budget. Mr. Kisela explained that the intent of the expectation was not to fund the capital projects, but the potential funding for the beach parking project. Chairman Brannon suggested adding the TDC building under their capital projects portion. Commissioner L. Jones suggested changing the language to state: “Tourist Development Council is funded by bed taxes and expects a 20% increase in their revenue.”

Commissioner Comander questioned how much funds are in the Solid Waste Landfill reserves. Mr. Imfeld stated that there is approximately \$5 million available because some of the funds are restricted for specific uses.

Commissioner L. Jones stated that the Hwy 331 issue has passed and will allow the resources and efforts to be used on a new project. He stated that as the years have gone by they have seen their revenues decline, the low tax rates, and learned many things from those situations. The lessons learned do not need to be forgotten as growth and revenues increase.

Commissioner Comander questioned if a meeting is needed to discuss how to move forward with Hwy 331. Mr. Kisela stated that they will bring that issue back on

June 12, 2012 for discussion after meeting with a financial advisor to determine what must be accomplished by September 1, 2012 to meet the obligation to the state.

Commissioner Comander requested to have fire department and landfill information provided for review.

Chairman Brannon asked that the Public Works Department bring information back regarding the Timpooshee Trail and an overall needs assessment for pedestrian bridge crossings, safety, and the signage program.

Commissioner C. Jones stated that there are congestion issues on 30A and Scenic 98 and the need to research a type of transit system to help decrease the vehicle traffic.

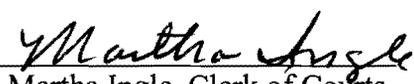
Chairman Brannon asked Mr. Billy Bearden, Building Official, to briefly discuss the increase in building permit applications. Mr. Bearden stated that they were averaging about 175-200 per month in 2007 and 2008, it decreased to about 18 per month and has recently increased to about 50 per month.

Commissioner Commander announced the retirement of Mr. Bill Imfeld and expressed appreciation for all his dedication. Mr. Imfeld expressed his appreciation and enjoyment working for the county.

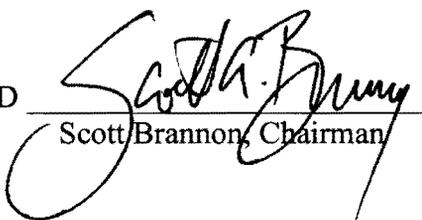
Chairman Brannon asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

ATTEST 
Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts

APPROVED


Scott Brannon, Chairman